

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00538 01 OF 02 260716Z

21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SCCT-01 OMB-01 AID-05 IO-10 SR-02

ORM-01 /084 W

----- 104677

R 251549Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1406

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LUSAKA 0538

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINS, PINT, AO

SUBJECT: SAVIMBI MARCH 24 CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR

REF: LUSAKA 147

SUMMARY. DURING LUNCHEON AT RESIDENCE MAR 24, UNITA
PRESIDENT JONAS SAVIMBI EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN
OVER MPLA TACTICS WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS INSPIRED AND
SUPPORTED BY PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY CADRES. SAID
UNITA AND FNLA WERE COOPERATING TO TRY CURB MPLA MISUSE
OF BROADCASTING FACILITIES UNDER MPLA CONTROL TO CONFUSE
ANGOLAN POPULATION. SAVIMBI CONCERNED THAT FNLA'S ROBERTO
COULD RASHLY TRY GAIN POWER THROUGH ARMED FORCE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUSAKA 00538 01 OF 02 260716Z

RATHER THAN CONTEST ELECTIONS. HE IMPLIED UNITA

IS SEEKING SUPPORT FROM AFRICAN AND WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES BUT MADE NO PITCH FOR AID FROM USG. END SUMMARY.

1. UNITA PRESIDENT JONAS SAVIMBI TELEPHONED FRIDAY ASKING TO SEE ME. AT MY SUGGESTION HE CAME TO RESIDENCE ON MONDAY FOR LUNCHEON ACCOMPANIED BY FWAMINY (TONY) FERNANDES, NEWLY-APPOINTED UNITA INFORMATION SECY, AND JORGE SANGUMBA, WHO IS REPLACING FERNANDES AS UNITA REP IN LUSAKA. SAVIMBI WAS DRESSED IN CIVILIAN VERSION OF OLIVE DRAB MILITARY DRESS WORN DURING OUR FIRST MEETING LAST JAN (REFTEL) AND CARRIED INEVITABLE WALKING STICK, THIS TIME ONE PRESENTED HIM IN IVORY COAST. HE WAS 10-15 POUNDS THINNER THAN TWO MONTHS AGO, ATTRIBUTING THIS TO HEAVY SPEAKING SCHEDULE (OR WAS IT DOCTOR'S ORDERS BECAUSE OF HEART CONDITION?). DURING NEARLY TWO-HOUR CONVERSATION HE SPOKE EXPANSIVELY AND IN SOME RESPECTS EVEN MORE CANDIDLY THAN AT OUR LAST TALK.

2. MPLA TROUBLE-MAKING. SAVIMBI DESCRIBED SITUATION IN ANGOLA AS "SERIOUS" BUT NOT CAUSE FOR PESSIMISM, BECAUSE OF CONTINUING EFFORTS BY MPLA TO PROPAGATE MARXISM AND ATTACK POSITIONS OF ITS TWO POLITICAL RIVALS. MPLA IS GETTING SUPPORT FROM PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY CADRES WHO HAVE BEEN SENT TO ANGOLA. MPLA IS BEHIND PROBLEMS WITH LABOR, ESPECIALLY AT PORTS, AND STUDENTS, AND HAS EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF ANGOLAN BROADCASTING FACILITIES. RADIO LISTENERS ARE GETTING STEADY DIET OF MARXISM MORNING, NOON AND NIGHT. RESULT HAS BEEN PERIODIC CLASHES BETWEEN MPLA FORCES AND THOSE OF OTHER GROUPS, ESPECIALLY FNLA. UNITA, SAVIMBI IMPLIED, IS STILL ATTEMPTING PLAY MODERATING ROLE TO PREVENT OUTBREAK OF FULL-SCALE VIOLENCE. MEANWHILE, UNITA AND FNLA HAVE OPPOSITION TO MPLA IN COMMON AND ARE INCREASINGLY COOPERATING IN EFFORTS TO COUNTER MPLA PROPAGANDA WHICH IS POINTEDLY TRYING TO DENIGRATE FNLA AND UNITA. WE ENCOURAGED HIM TO CONTINUE TO WORK FOR FREE AND OPEN ELECTIONS.

3. ELECTIONS. SAVIMBI IS CONCERNED THAT ELECTIONS TAKE PLACE IN PEACEFUL AND DEMOCRATIC MANNER. HE FEARS THAT FNLA MAY BECOME IMPATIENT AND ATTEMPT THWART DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND MOVE BY FORCE, USING ITS LARGE MILITARY FORCES. SAVIMBI
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LUSAKA 00538 01 OF 02 260716Z

BELIEVES MPLA'S TACTICS ALL DESIGNED TO THWART ELECTIONS TO CHOOSE ANGOLA'S LEADERS, ARGUING THAT THESE ALREADY CHOSEN, DESPITE ALGARVE AGREEMENT THAT ELECTIONS BE HELD. SAVIMBI OBVIOUSLY WORRIED THAT IF FIGHTING BREAKS OUT, CONSEQUENCES ARE UNPREDICTABLE, ALTHOUGH IT LIKELY THAT MPLA MIGHT GAIN MORE EASILY THAN IT WOULD IN OPEN ELECTIONS.

4. OUTSIDE SUPPORT. SAVIMBI CURRENTLY TRAVELLING TO VARIOUS

AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND HAS PLANS ALSO GO TO WESTERN EUROPE TO
SEEK SUPPORT FOR UNITA. HE SAID ZAMBIA'S KAUNDA HAS NOW SWUNG
FROM SUPPORTING MPLA TO SUPPORTING UNITA. WHILE GRZ POLICY
LEVEL COOPERATING, THERE SOME RESISTANCE AT PERMANENT SECY
WORKING LEVELS WHICH SAVIMBI HOPES ELIMINATE. KAUNDA HAS ALSO
BEEN WORKING ON NYERERE WHO NOW SHOWING SLIGHTLY BETTER
FACE TOWARD UNITA. MACHEL AND FRELIMO, HOWEVER, CONTINUE
BE FIRMLY BEHIND NETO AND COLD TOWARD UNITA. AS FOR
CHINESE, SAVIMBI SAID HE HAD DEALT WITH THEM IN EARLY
DAYS OF UNITA BUT FOUND THEM UNRELIABLE, BEING STRONG ON
PROMISE BUT SHORT ON DELIVERY. HE NOT ANTI-CHINESE BUT
IMPLIED HE DOES NOT EXPECT MUCH FROM THEM NOR FROM SOVIETS,
WHOM HE HAS "VERY LITTLE TO DO WITH."

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00538 02 OF 02 260702Z

21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SCCT-01 OMB-01 AID-05 IO-10 SR-02

ORM-01 /084 W

----- 104386

R 251549Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1407

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LUSAKA 0538

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

5. REFUGEES. SANGUMBA ESTIMATED THERE 30-40,000 ANGOLAN

REFUGEES IN ZAMBIA, EXCLUSIVE OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS. SAVIMBI CLAIMS MOST ARE UNITA SUPPORTERS. HE WAS NOT SURE WHETHER ALL OR MOST OF THESE WOULD GET BACK TO ANGOLA BEFORE OCTOBER ELECTIONS. UNITA QUESTIONED WHETHER FNLA'S ROBERTO COULD EXPECT 100 PERCENT SUPPORT FROM THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES IN ZAIRE IF ALL REPATRIATED IN TIME TO VOTE.

6. CABINDA. SAVIMBI HAD HEARD STORY THAT FRENCH AND GULF OIL ARE BACKING FLEC, ALTHOUGH HE READILY ACKNOWLEDGED HE HAD NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT ALLEGATIONS AGAINST GULF. WE ASSURED HIM WE HAD NO SUCH EVIDENCE EITHER BUT WOULD BE CONCERNED IF THERE WERE DEVIATION FROM OPENLY NEUTRAL STANCE. SAVIMBI COMMENTED THAT ROBERTO HAS FAILED TO PERSUADE MOBUTU
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUSAKA 00538 02 OF 02 260702Z

NOT TO MEDDLE IN CABINDA.

7. AAI SCHOLARSHIPS. SAVIMBI SAID AFRICAN-AMERICAN INSTITUTE HAS OFFERED EACH ANGOLAN MOVEMENT 15 UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS IN US FOR TOTAL OF 45. UNITA HAS ACCEPTED AND HE THOUGHT FNLA ALSO BUT WAS NOT SURE MPLA WOULD ACCEPT.

8. COMMENT: AS AT OUR PREVIOUS MEETING, SAVIMBI SOUGHT CONVEY IMAGE OF BEING MODERATE, DEDICATED, ANTI-COMMUNIST LEADER WHOSE PRIME CONCERN IS PEACEFUL TRANSITION OF HIS COUNTRY TO INDEPENDENCE. ALTHOUGH SAVIMBI MADE IT CLEAR HE SEARCHING FOR OUTSIDE SUPPORT, PRINCIPALLY ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY EXCLUSIVELY FROM NON-COMMUNIST SOURCES, HE DID NOT MAKE PITCH FOR OVERT US SUPPORT FOR UNITA. IF HE HAS MADE PITCH TO UK FOR COVERT SUPPORT (BECAUSE OF MILES STRESS ON "QUIET HELP", LUSAKA 515), PERHAPS A SIMILAR APPROACH TO USG MAY BE RESERVED FOR OUR THIRD MEETING. SAVIMBI SMART ENOUGH TO APPRECIATE THAT TURNING TO MAJOR POWERS WITH ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN ANGOLA MIGHT GIVE RISE TO CHARGES BY HIS ENEMIES THAT HE HAS BECOME "TOOL OF GULF OIL." WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, WE HAVE ESTABLISHED USEFUL DIALOGUE WITH MAN WHO JUST MAY PROVE TO BE A FUTURE PRESIDENT OF INDEPENDENT ANGOLA AND HAVE ENCOURAGED HIM TO BE IN CONTACT ALSO WITH AMB HINTON IN KINSHASA WHERE HE WILL VISIT APRIL 10-12 AND WITH OUR CONSUL GENERAL IN LUANDA WHEN HE MAKES HIS FIRST VISIT THERE PERHAPS THIS MONTH.
WILKOWSKI

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, LIBERATION FRONTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LUSAKA00538
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750105-0059
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750319/aaaaaqhw.tel
Line Count: 216
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LUSAKA 147
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUN 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAVIMBI MARCH 24 CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINS, PINT, AO, MPLA, FNLA, (SAVIMBI, JONAS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006